Export of surplus foodgrains

†2670. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the foodgrains storage presently available in India;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to export surplus foodgrains; and

(c) if so, the details of surplus foodgrains and their annual upkeep?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The stock of wheat and rice as on 1.4.2002 in central pool was as under:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)
(Provisional)

Wheat	Rice	Total
260.39	249.12	509.51

(b) Yes, Sir. Actual export of wheat and rice from the Central Pool during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 was as follows:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Total
2000-01	16.24	Nil	16.24
2001-02	36.52	14.36	50.88

As per the decision taken by the Government on 23rd March, 2002, there is now no quantitative restriction on the export of rice and wheat, subject to the condition that the stock in the Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs (100 lakh Mts of rice and 143 lakh MTs of wheat) at any point of time.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) A quantity of 351.51 lakh tonnes of foodgrains was surplus in Central Pool as on 1.4.2002 against the prescribed buffer stocking norms on foodgrains of the corresponding period. As per prescribed norms the prophylactic and curative treatments given to the stock during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (February, 2002) are indicated below:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

	2000-01	2001-02
Prophylactic	3076.05	2328.63
Curative	594.87	630.83

Import of Edible Oil

†2671. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to abolish the Essential Commodities Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal of heavy investment on the import of edible oils; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the domestic production of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) As per EXIM Policy import of edible oils except coconut oil is under Open General Licence (OGL).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.